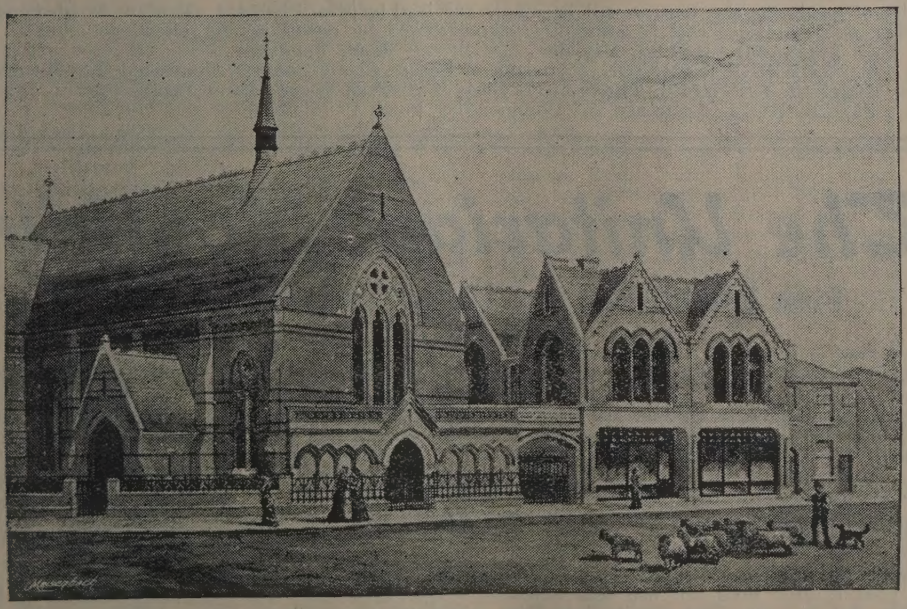
UNITARIAN MONTHLY

An Organ for the propagation of the Doctrine of Unity in Religion, Theology, Philosophy and Society.

No. 242. (Vol. XX)—11. NOVEMBER, 1923. ONE PENNY.



PENDLETON UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

see pages 86 (advt.), and 90.

Pendleton Unitarian Free Church,

MANCHESTER.

GRAND JUBILEE BAZAAR

IN THE SCHOOLROOM.

Thursday, Nov. 29th, Friday, Nov. 30th, & Saturday, Dec. 1st. Each Day at 3 p.m.

£1,500 URGENTLY NEEDED.

Over £125 has had to be spent on account of dry rot in the School buildings, and a further large sum is being spent because of dry rot discovered in the roof of the Church; various other repairs of Church and School are absolutely necessary; the whole premises require decorating; the installation of electric lighting in the Church and completion of same in the School; the organ must be thoroughly overhauled; a piano is needed for the School, and there is considerable debt on the Church account to be cleared off.

To celebrate our JUBILEE free from debt the whole of the sum named will have to be raised.

Members of the Congregation and Sunday School have already paid or promised £694 7s. 8d., which represents great self-sacrifice and loyal support.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association approves this appeal and contributes £50.

The Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches also approves the appeal and contributes £35.

Gifts of goods for the Bazaar will be gladly received by Mrs. Phelps, 1, Glenfyne Road, Pendleton, Manchester, and donations will be gratefully acknowledged by either of the following:—

G. LEONARD PHELPS, Minister, 1, Glenfyne Road, Pendleton.
T. FLETCHER ROBINSON, Chairman of Bazaar Committee, 117, Claremont Rd., Pendleton.
JOHN P. KNOWLES, Treasurer, 7, Edward Avenue, Weaste Lane, Pendleton.
JAS. B. HULL, Secretary, 57, Cholmondley Road, Pendleton.

"The Unitarian Monthly"

First Established as "Unity," September 1903.

The "Unitarian Monthly" has now entered upon its 21st year and is COMING OF AGE, having weathered the very critical period of the war so fatal to hundreds of periodicals. The whole financial and business responsibility throughout has depended entirely upon the Editor, who founded it and has carried it on. It is the only Unitarian Parish Magazine that has lived so long. From its first issue it has paid its way, subsidised only by the labours of its Editor and contributors, whose motive is to make the Magazine an effective missionary agent for our churches. The Editor is grateful to his contributors for their generous and gratuitous assistance. He now makes APPEAL TO THE CHURCHES, and to all Unitarians who wish such a propagandist organ to become more powerful and more widely influential in spreading Unitarian ideas, to help him to DOUBLE THE CIRCULATION during this 21st year.

Double the number of copies used in your Church and Sunday School.

If your Church does not use this Magazine secure names of members and friends willing to pay One Penny for one copy per month—less than a farthing per week—so that a regular monthly parcel of copies may be sent you, or to a Magazine Secretary willing to act.

25 copies 1s. 9d., post free; 30 for 2s.; 50 for 3s. 7d.; 100 for 6s., and cost of carriage.

100 copies, with local Calendar cover, front page of Church matter only, 14s. 6d. and cost of carriage, for Church Calendar and Magazine combined. If by organised distribution every copy is sold for ONE PENNY the cost is thus reduced by 8s.

Who Will Help? WILL YOU?

Write to the Editor, H. Bodell Smith, 4, Ashton Grove, Blackpool.

The Magazine is to be increased to 16 pages beginning with next January issue.

Notes and News.

" One God, one law, one element,
And one far-off divine event,
To which the whole creation moves ! "
—Tennyson.

THE UNITARIAN MONTHLY.
An Organ for the propagation of
THE DOCTRINE OF UNITY
In Religion, Theology, Philosophy and Society.

All comunications to the Editor, 4, Ashton Grove, South Shore, Blackpool.

Contributors' copy should be sent in NOT LATER THAN the second Monday in the month.

Will our readers please consider what they can do to assist the Editor's special effort as mentioned on the opposite page?

CORRECTION.—In the notice of Dr. Edwin Odgers' book in last issue the price was inadvertently stated to be 7s. 6d.; it should have been 6s., as in the advertisement in same issue.

The annual meetings of the Northumberland and Durham Unitarian Christian Association were held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, September 23rd and 24th. Rev. W. C. Hall, M.A., of Todmorden, was the preacher, and Revs. W. L. Schroeder, M.A., (Leeds), P. C. Whiteman, B.A., (Warrington), H. Barnes (Newcastle), with Mr. E. H. Coysh (president) and Dr. Lillie Johnson (secretary), took part in the proceedings. Definite progress was reported, especially at South Shields and Choppington.

A Bootle paper says that the three sons of the Rev. H. Fisher Short intend to enter the ministry without being " pitchforked " into it.

Miss Clare Brockway, daughter of the late Rev. T. F. M. Brockway, Moretonhampstead, has gained the Diploma in Botany at the Royal College of Science.

Mr. Basil Viney, Unitarian minister in charge at Unity Church, Islington, London, has been having an open-air campaign with crowded audiences.

A conference of the N.-E. Lancashire Sunday School Union at Newchurch, September 22nd, discussed " Methods in the Sunday School," and decided to hold an Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Padiham next March.

Rev. H. Fisher Short, charged with unsettling people's minds and causing them to doubt, said he was glad, as it proved that he was not wasting his time.

Rev. Dr. H. Gow, president of the B. and F. Unitarian Association, visited our church at Edinburgh, September 22nd and 23rd, when it was reported that the congregation had increased by 60 new members during the two years' ministry of the Rev. Sidney Spencer, B.A., who has preached Christianity as a force for social regeneration and transformation.

The jubilee of the erection of the present Unitarian Church at Middlesbrough, has been celebrated, September 16—17; the cause originated 90 years ago.

The Mill Street Free Church, Bradford, Manchester, minister, Rev. A. J. Heale, has been altered and re-decorated at the cost of £270.

Our Midland Provincial Assembly of Churches held its inaugural meetings at Nottingham, October 1—2, when the new constitution was adopted. About 60 delegates attended from a district including Shrewsbury, Leicester, Rotherham and Evesham as its extremities.

The Unitarian Chapel at Bath has been thoroughly renovated at a cost of £750.

The new session of the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester, was opened with a largely-attended inaugural meeting, October 2nd. It was reported that there were now 13 students, including four newly entered. Rev. Dr. Thackray gave an address on " The Minister's Need of the Philosophic Mind."

Good progress is reported of the Cambridge Unitarian Church.

The Bicentenary of Hale Barns Chapel, Cheshire, has been celebrated, October 4—7, with Revs. Dr. Gow, A. Gordon and Dr. Jacks as preachers.

The minister at Accrington, Mr. H. Crabtree, is giving an opportunity for questions after his pulpit addresses.

The York Street congregation, Belfast, under its new minister, Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., promises well with present attendances of over 100.

The 90th anniversary of the death of Ram Mohun Roy has been celebrated at the grave, Arno's Vale Cemetery, Bristol, by a service and address by Rev. Dr. Tudor Jones.

Miss Emma Ottewell, L.R.A.M., organist, Crewe Unitarian Church, has been appointed Head Music Mistress of Cheadle Hulme Secondary School. A farewell social was held on September 26th and presentations made.

A Sale of Work for Cullompton Chapel to raise £100 has been successful. A farewell meeting to Rev. J. W. and Mrs. Bishop was held September 22nd, when presentations to both were made.

School renovations at Hinckley have been carried out by Sunday school teachers working there at nights.

The ministry of Rev. E. Rosalind Lee, B.A., Narborough Road Church, Leicester, began well with a full congregation, September 30th.

At the Forestgate Unitarian Church, London, 15 new members were received into fellowship by Rev. W. G. Tarrant, B.A., on September 30th.

At Stratford, London, Rev. J. P. Rosling is doing " an amazing amount of ministerial work from which good results are accruing," besides following another week-day vocation.

A sports ground of 6½ acres has been purchased for the young people of the Upper Chapel, Sheffield, at the cost of £850.

Alderman Aveling, a member of the Unitarian Church, is the Mayor-elect for Southport. This is the second Unitarian Mayor of that town within the last five years.

Rev. H. Williamson, Dundee, says he is " dead against " lowering the Unitarian flag.

At Newport, I.W., the Unitarian minister, Rev. W. Clark-Lewis, invited his congregation, at a meeting held at the close of evening service, to make suggestions as to the future conduct of the service. Various suggestions were made, and left to the minister's judgment.

The London and S.-E. Counties Provincial Assembly of Unitarian Churches was held at the Croydon Free Christian Church, October 8th, with a very good attendance. The proposal to amalgamate with the London District Unitarian Society was agreed to, but the new name suggested wipes out the word " Unitarian."

The Eastern Union of Unitarian Churches had its annual meeting at Cambridge, October 4th. These scattered churches are holding their own.

Rev. G. A. Payne conducted his 34th Harvest Festival at Allostock, October 7th.

DUTY.

I saw a veiled figure stand
By the margin of the land,
Waves of ocean bathed her feet,
Her form austere was sad and sweet.
Black her garments as the night,
But her veil was silvery white,
And upon its filmy thread
Mystic letters could be read:
" Duty " was the word it bore.
But that word, and nothing more.

Many suitors passed her by,
Seeking " Beauty " far and nigh.
All their souls filled with the fires
Of unquenchable desires.
Then came one who, drawing near,
Spake in accents warm and clear,
Till his wooing did prevail
And she raised her mystic veil.
Then he saw a lovely face,
Full of strength and full of grace.

" Sweet one," said he, " speak thy name!—
That I may its worth proclaim."
" Call me, dear one, call me ' Duty.' "
" Nay," he said, " thy name is ' Beauty,'
Nowhere on the golden earth
Has a fairer one had birth."
" That, too, is my name," she said,
" But here it must be whispered,
Though the angels call me ' Beauty '
On earth I have have no name but ' Duty.' "

—William E. A. Axon in
"Millgate Monthly."

Unitarian Worthies.

By Rev. ARTHUR W. FOX, M.A.

XXIII.—WILLIAM JOHNSON FOX.

WILLIAM JOHNSON FOX was a Suffolk man. He was born in 1786. In his early childhood his father removed to Norwich, where he followed the trade of weaving, to which he brought up his son in his early years. During this period the boy sought such education as he could find, with the result that he found his way to work in a bank. This work he continued for six years, at the end of which he was twenty, and by dint of hard study had gained some knowledge of Latin and Greek and a competent acquaintance with economic science. He took a college course at Homerton, and in 1809 became Independent minister at Fareham. Like Demosthenes, he had a bad delivery; like Demosthenes, he conquered it. After a year at Fareham he became heretical, and on hearing an address by Brook Aspland found that he was a Unitarian.

By 1824, after a period of service at Chichester, he became minister of South Place Chapel, Finsbury, where he worked for twenty-eight years. He had now become a finished orator, and attracted many hearers, amongst whom may be remembered Sarah Flower Adams, authoress of " Nearer, my God, to Thee." For five years he ran " The Monthly Repository," that excellent organ of our free faith. When Charles Dickens founded the " Daily News " Fox wrote the first leading article. When John Bright, Richard Cobden, and Milner Gibson were moving round the country agitating for Free Trade, he joined them, and his powerful oratory made a profound impression wherever he spoke. His firm grip of economic principles helped to convince many to whom his more scientific outlook appealed. As a result of his share in the agitation he was elected member of Parliament for Oldham in 1847. A victim of heart disease, he had to take extreme care of his health, so that he played no conspicuous part in the House of Commons. He was past sixty when he entered it, a fact which hindered his success; nor did he completely catch the House of Commons manner.

Always deeply interested in the education for which he had to struggle so hard in his early days, in 1850 he brought in a Bill to promote secular education. He was twenty years in advance of his time in openly advocating compulsory education. His eight " Lectures to the Working Classes," given on Sunday evenings, impressed upon his very numerous hearers the need of self-education. He spoke from his own experience; nor was he ever ashamed of his birth as a workman. His eloquence was supported by unusually strong reasoning powers. One who heard him said that it flowed from him with perfect ease and a strong power of appeal. His voice, by his careful training of it, became full and rich, and he could use it with strong emotional effect.

When we speak of a self-made man we usually mean one who has made a fortune. William Johnson Fox was a self-made man in a truer and deeper sense. He educated himself by hard industry; he conquered natural defects and made himself one of the best-known orators of his time. A man of the people, in spite of a weak constitution he served the people with rare fidelity. He never forgot that he was born amongst the poorer classes; he pleaded for them with fervour and power. He had a keen sense of humour and a cutting sarcasm, which forced the respect of his opponents. He was a great Unitarian minister, a distinguished public orator, and a faithful servant of the people that he loved.

[See " Dictionary of National Biography " and " Memorable Unitarians."]

Church Subscriptions.

By the Rev. WILLIAM C. HALL, M.A.

I last wrote about our district associations, what they might become and the work they might do. It is obvious, however, that any extension of their functions and their work depends upon an increase of income. These associations and most of the other general institutions of our denomination rely upon the support of individual subscribers. From a denominational point of view it would, I think, be more satisfactory if they were chiefly maintained by congregational subscriptions, and if our people as a whole felt that they were thereby their supporters. If a certain proportion of congregational income were allocated to them, they would have the means of extending their operations, and all of our congregations would eventually derive benefit.

Besides that of the district associations, the better maintenance of the National Conference, the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, the Sunday School Association, the Colleges, and other organisations, is required. They do fundamental work for our congregations, and support for them is desired, both that they may become more effective servants of our faith and that our congregations may realise the good of participation in general denominational work.

It could easily be shown how the better support of any of these would react upon our congregations. With adequate funds the B. and F., for example, could do propagandist work which would acquaint the public outside our churches with our principles and prepare the way for new congregations. At present its operations are checked in every direction for want of funds, and it awaits another Brooke Herford to rouse our people to a sense of its needs and of the services it might render. But I have faith in our people, and I believe that if the Association sent forth an agent to confer with our congregations, its subscription list would be largely augmented and a new interest in missionary work promoted.

But I have particularly in mind the support of our Colleges by congregational subscriptions. Apart from the needs of the Colleges, it would assist in the maintenance of a proficient ministry. At present our Colleges are in the minds of not a few of our congregations remote institutions, of which they become aware when there is a ministerial vacancy; for the rest of the time they are forgotten. Let each congregation get the sense that it has an obligation in the training of men and women for the ministry, our denomination will gradually be helped out of its difficulty in finding those who are fitted for the work. I have little sympathy with the appeals put forth from time to time to induce young men and women to become ministers, in which the advantages of the ministerial life are as fully stated as ingenuity can devise. Young people worth their salt will not be attracted by the recital of "advantages," and those worth the best emoluments of the vocation will learn all the "disadvantages" before they dedicate themselves to service in which they must "lose their souls." A young man who nicely decides between the ministry and something else had better go to the something else. We want men and women who realise the divine "call" only, and we shall get them when our churches as a whole provide an atmosphere in which the holiness of the ministerial calling can be felt. They must realise that they have the duty of preparing for the ministry, and that our Colleges exist not as warehouses from which they can get ministers when the need arises, but as institutions, entitled to their support, in which provision is made for the training of our ministry as such.

Literature.

LITERATURE :—"The Moral Basis of the League of Nations," by the Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.G., M.P. 1s. net, The Lindsey Press, 5, Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

This is the Essex Hall Lecture delivered before the British and Foreign Unitarian Association in Whit-week, 1923. It is, as might well be expected from the ablest of the League protagonists, a very fine statement in justification of that organisation. Lord Robert asserts that the maxims of morality apply to the relations between States as between individuals. The State is a corporate whole, and therefore must be regarded as an individual, a moral individual subject to the moral law, in its conduct towards other States. But some kind of international court of appeal is necessary for the nations just as a court of appeal is needed for individuals as the alternative to anarchy. The League of Nations is such a court; it aims to make war illegal and to establish international justice. It is based on the assumption that public opinion in favour of right, properly organised, can safeguard the peace of the world. The Lecturer declares that the League is working well, and has already done great things. For the prevention of war an international agreement to disarm is necessary, beginning with reduction of armaments. The accumulation of masses of armaments provokes the desire to use them. Competition in armaments production indicates distrust and fear. A peaceful world is not possible until the nations can be persuaded to possess no more arms than are necessary for internal order.

There is a very full appendix of 20 pages on the work of the League, and an excellent preface by Dr. Mellone. We urge our readers to secure a copy and to read it.

Pendleton Unitarian Free Church.

Rev. G. LEONARD PHELPS

IN view of the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations at our Pendleton Church the following brief account of Unitarianism in Pendleton will be of interest.

The Pendleton Unitarian Free Church is a standing memorial of the missionary zeal of the Manchester District Unitarian Association (now the Manchester District Association of Presbyterian and Unitarian Churches). In 1858 Mission Services were held, and in 1860 there were regular services in the Pendleton Mechanics' Institute, conducted chiefly by the Rev. James C. Street, Missionary Agent of the Association. It is evident that already there was an enthusiastic congregation, for in this year £600 was raised towards the erection of a new chapel. Local opposition resulted in the continued use of the Institute being refused, and the last service there was conducted by Dr. Beard on February 23rd, 1862, who preached from the text, "And they cast Him out." Undaunted, the faithful band continued to struggle on, and in the same year a little disused chapel in Ford Street was purchased. Here Mr. Street, assisted by neighbouring ministers and students of the Home Missionary Board, carried on the work under considerable difficulties, for the Ford Street Chapel was not conveniently situated for the congregation. In 1871 the building was sold for £273, and a room was rented in West George Street. With no settled minister and no church there was no progress, but the faithful few were determined and these difficulties were overcome. Arrangements were made for the Rev. William Harrison, then of Swinton, to conduct the evening services and take pastoral oversight of the congregation, and the site of the present church at Cross Lane was secured. The foundation stone of the church was laid on May 27th, 1873. The church was opened for public worship on Tuesday, June 2nd, 1874, the first Sunday service being held on June 14th. In August of the same year the Rev. John McDowell became the first minister, and it was largely due to his untiring and efficient services for 17 years that the congregation was firmly established. Within two years it was possible to give up the grant from the District Association. In 1884 school buildings were opened, the cost being £1,200. In 1891 Mr. McDowell resigned, and was succeeded by the Rev. A. H. Dolphin, during whose ministry the school buildings were extended at a further expenditure of £1,400. Since 1898, when Mr. Dolphin resigned, the following have been ministers at Pendleton: Rev. Jenkyn Thomas (1899-1902), Rev. Neander Anderton, B.A. (1904-08), Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A. (1909-11), Rev. A. H. Lewis, B.D. (1913-17), Rev. G. Randall Jones, M.A., B.D., B.Sc. (1917-20), and Rev. G. Leonard Phelps (1921-).

During the half century the congregation has had its ups and downs, but always there have been stalwart laymen connected with it who were known and respected in the community and in the denomination for their good works; among them may be mentioned Richard Harwood, F. S. Phillips, W. C. Milnes, Archibald Winterbottom, George Mitchell, Jonathan Milner, Reuben Robertson, Jeremiah Wigley and T. Fletcher Robinson.

Active preparations are being made for the celebration of the jubilee of the erection of the present church building, part of which preparation is the effort to raise £1,500 by means of the Jubilee Bazaar at the end of November, which is advertised on another page of this issue. We earnestly hope that our Pendleton friends will have every possible cause for jubilation in the results of all their most praiseworthy efforts.

Rev. G. Leonald Phelps, minister of the Pendleton Unitarian Church, Manchester, was educated for the ministry at the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester, and at Owen's College (now Manchester University), 1897-1902. He has since been minister at Devonport, 1902-4; Evesham, 1905-9; Holywood, Co. Down, 1909-

21; and entered on his present charge in 1921. Before he left Holywood he was Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland (the Unitarian section of Irish Presbyterians), 1920-21, and he was local secretary of our National Conference Meetings in Manchester in April last. Under Mr. Phelps's ministry our Pendleton Church is prospering, and he has proved himself to be a very serviceable accession to our cause in the Manchester district.

ALDERMAN H. T. GREENWOOD,

Retiring Mayor, Ashton-u-Lyne.

Alderman H. T. Greenwood, who has been the Mayor of Ashton during 1921-23, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Greenwood, whose diamond wedding was celebrated this year, and whose portraits appeared on our July front page. He is a member of our Dukinfield Old Chapel, member of the Chapel Committee, a trustee of the Chapel endowment, and a life-long Unitarian. He has recently been on a visit of inquiry to Germany with a party of friends. On Mayor's Sunday he attended service with members and officials of the Ashton Council at our Richmond Hill Church.

In principle the world is one. One set of laws governs it. It is a unity. It is Unitarian. Follow that doctrine and life will never be acquisition for a period, nor yet " doing good to others " for a period, but simple service, the Golden Rule, the spirit of mutualism, all the time. That is what Jesus tried unsuccessfully to get into his disciples' minds. —" The Christian Register."

Dr. THOMAS MASARYK, President of Czecho-Slovakia.

President Masaryk married an American lady of Unitarian connections, and partly through her influence he joined the Reformed Evangelical Church and embraced Unitarian ideas. He attended the International Unitarian Congress at Boston, U.S.A., 1907, where he was one of the special speakers. His career has been romantic. He is described as " one of the most remarkable personalities of our time." Born in 1850, he is now 73. He has been a locksmith's apprentice, a university professor, a political and moral philosopher, a member of Parliament, a party leader, a revolutionary leader, an exile from his country, a voluminous writer, and is now the creator of a new State republic and its first President, and elected for life. His state visit to England, arriving Sunday, October 21st, is an interesting and significant event. Not long ago with his daughter he lived an exile in London.

UNITARIANISM.

The keyword of Unitarianism is—Unity.
Its theology is—the Unity of God.
Its sociology is—the Unity of Man.
Its religion is—the Unity of Man with God.

The S.-E. Wales Unitarian Society had its quarterly meeting, October 8th, at Brigend; preacher, Rev. J. Park Davies, B.A., B.D., of Nantwich.

A new lectern and a baptismal font presented to the congregation at Mossley were dedicated by the minister, Rev. E. Glyn-Evans, October 7th.

The Sale of Work at Halliwell Road Unitarian Church, Bolton, October 3rd and 6th, realised £280.

The 232nd anniversary services at our Shrewsbury Chapel were conducted on October 7th by Rev. Dr. H. Gow, B.A.

The " Wayside Pulpit " mottoes boldly displayed outside Chapel Lane Chapel, Bradford, and at Cross Street, Manchester, excite the interest of the public.

A new pulpit presented by Rev. Frank Freeston in memory of his father, the late Rev. Joseph Freeston, who was minister at Stalybridge, 1880—1888, was unveiled at a special service on October 7th.

A meeting of the Laymen's League was held at Nottingham on the occasion of the Midland Assembly, October 2nd, when Dr. Jessel delivered a suggestive address on " The Layman's Opportunity," which provoked a helpful discussion.

DEATHS.—Mrs. J. Wrigley, Pendleton, September 15th, 84; Mr. Wm. Knowles, Gee Cross, Hyde, September 9th, 81; Mr. Henry Enfield, Nottingham, September 19th, 74; Mr. Robert James Taylor, Bacup, September 22nd, 45; Miss Margaret A. Garrett, London, September 27th, 66; Mrs. Samuel Worthington, Stockport, September 28th; Mr. Wm. Cheshire, Birmingham, October 4th, 63; Mrs. Thomas Garrett, London, October 6th, 91.

The Unitarian Women's League. By Miss E. JOHNSTONE.

THE District Branches have arranged for, or held, very good opening meetings this autumn. The following report from Leeds District is most encouraging, and especially so in view of their being of such young growth.

LEEDS DISTRICT LEAGUE.—The third quarterly meeting of the Leeds District League met at Huddersfield, Saturday, October 6th; 124 members attended from Huddersfield, Lydgate, Halifax, Bradford, Wakefield, Hunslet and Leeds. The proceedings included a devotional service, conducted by Miss Balmforth, helped by the choirs of the Huddersfield and Lydgate Churches, followed by tea in the schoolroom, with Mrs. Brooke as generous hostess. Then came the business meeting; an invitation from the Halifax Branch to hold the next meeting there on December 8th was cordially accepted. Miss Holdsworth (Halifax) will conduct the devotional service, and Miss Elsie Smith (Wallasey and Leeds) has promised to give an address.

The general meeting followed, Mrs. W. L. Schroeder presiding, who introduced the speaker for the evening, Miss Mitchell, of London, the "Fellowship" Secretary for the Central Committee, who appropriately took as her subject, "Fellowship and Friendly Links," quoting instances of timely help and encouragement afforded to women and girls through these agencies, both in England and abroad, and communicating some of her own enthusiasm for the work, and belief in its power to stimulate the spiritual life of those taking part in it. Several names were handed in for Friendly Links membership. Cordial votes of thanks were given to Miss Mitchell and to our Huddersfield friends.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT LEAGUE met at Hindley on September 29th, about 120 being present. Miss E. D. Scott, M.A., of London, conducted the afternoon service, and the music was beautifully rendered by the choir. After tea a business meeting was held, followed by an evening meeting, at which Mrs. Woodhouse presided. A programme of music had been arranged by the Hindley members, which was much appreciated, as were all other arrangements for the success and comfort of the gathering. Miss Scott took as her subject for the address, "Christianity: A Choice," and gave a most interesting and thoughtful address on the part which our churches should play in influencing religious thought at the present time. It was reported that £113 10s. had been received as a result of the effort at Summerville, of which £59 had been sent to the Central Funds and £54 10s. to the Fund for Aged Widows of Ministers.

The following branches were represented:—Bolton (Bank Street), Bolton (Halliwell Road), Bolton (Unity), Chowbent, Failsworth, Hale, Horwich, Hindley, Longsight, Swinton, Oldham, Pendleton, Stalybridge, Stand and Stockport. Mrs. Woodhouse cordially welcomed the new branch at Swinton.

Miss Jones expressed the welcome of the Hindley friends, and a resolution of thanks was passed to Miss Scott. At the delegates' meeting it was reported that the League now supplies a preacher, Mrs. Heale, of the Mill Street Mission, Manchester, for the small congregation at Willert Street on the second Sunday in each month. A letter from Miss Leigh, of Monton, was read describing her visit to Canada. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Hindley friends for their hospitality.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEAGUE.—The autumn meeting of the Birmingham District Women's League was held at Coventry on Saturday, October 6th, by invitation of the Coventry branch. The other branches represented were Birmingham, Church of the Messiah and Moseley, Stourbridge and Walsall. We are indebted to Miss Brooke Herford for a most inspiring and interesting address on the "History of the Unitarian Movement," which she concluded by speaking of some of the prominent men and women of the past belonging to our household of faith, stating what they had done for the uplift of their fellow men. And at the close of the meeting two pamphlets, "Eminent Unitarian Teachers" and "Eminent Unitarian Social Reformers," provided by the B. & F.U.A., were distributed.

At the business meeting which followed Rev. Leonard Short gave a brief account of the meetings of the Midland Provincial Assembly held at Nottingham earlier in the week, and Miss Nettlefold reported that she had represented the M.C.U. at the Rev. E. Rosalind Lee's welcome meeting at Narborough Road Church, Leicester, the previous Wednesday. An excellent tea was provided, followed by a social gathering.

Miss RUTH NETTLEFOLD.

ABROAD.—The American General National Conference of Unitarian Churches met at New Haven, Conn., September 12th, when it decided to recommend absorption of the Conference into the American Unitarian Association, which is to be put upon a representative basis.

The various groups of Unitarians in the Khasi Hills, Assam, India, have been visited by Mr. H. Kissor Singh, of Shillong. The Unitarian Women's Alliance of U.S.A., have sent financial help towards the erection of one of their chapels.

The Unitarian Church at Wellington, N.Z., being without a minister, the services have been conducted by members and friends, including Professor McKenzie and Sir Robert Stout.

For the Children. By Rev. H. FISHER SHORT.

MYSTERIOUS MISTER BROWN.

(Continued.)

During all these excitements nobody gave a thought to Mr. Brown, who carried on as usual. At the shops he haggled over halfpence and insisted on proper weight and measure. Because he was so " reserved " nobody thought of discussing the strange doings with him, and because he was an " old skinflint " he was hardly expected to be sympathetic. His newness having worn off, he was now a nobody. And even when the news spread through the village one afternoon that " Old Skinflint " was dead very little interest was aroused. " Nothing to thank him for," was about the only remark anyone made.

At three o'clock that afternoon the village constable noticed that Mr. Brown's window blinds were still down, and that the morning's milk had not been taken from the doorstep. He asked the neighbours if they had seen or heard anything of Mr. Brown that day, and on hearing they had not he forced the door and found that the old gentleman had apparently passed away in his sleep. The policeman also found something else. On a table by the bed was a rather faded piece of paper on which were written the addresses of a doctor and a firm of lawyers. Nor was this all. There was a small packet with a message attached, which ran, " To be handed to the Vicar at once."

On the evening of the funeral Mr. Ransom gathered the villagers together in the schoolroom.

" I have a beautiful story to tell you," he began. " In the Best of Books we are warned to ' be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' I'm afraid we have failed to observe the first part of this injunction: We have not exactly entertained the ' stranger ' whose remains we have laid to rest this day. Some of you, I believe, spoke of him disrespectfully. You thought he was a selfish man. That, however, was not entirely your fault, for on his part he hid from you—and, I may add from me—that he was observing that commandment of his Master, ' When thou doest alms let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth, that thine alms may be in secret.' Secretly our friend lived as an angel of mercy among you. You will be surprised to know that it was he, and none other, who, in the spirit of his Master, found out—how, I cannot explain—where there was real need and then hastened quietly to supply it. Really he was a comparatively poor man, and if he seemed to be over-careful it was only that he might be able to do as much good as possible. This evening I have had a conversation with his solicitor, who showed me a list of our friend's benefactions since he came to Thornwell. It is a very beautiful record of beautiful deeds, and we may well thank God for having sent such a saintly soul amongst us. And, as if to crown his life's work fittingly, he did a noble and a graceful thing even whilst the shadow of death was upon him. His solicitor has handed to me a letter enclosed in a little parcel. This is the letter, written on the very night he passed away. ' Dear Mr. Vicar,—My doctor warns me that such is the state of my heart I may die anytime. To-night I have a feeling of weakness which I must not ignore. I am therefore making sure that Will Higgins, who, I learn, has been saving for years so as to take his big family of boys to New Zealand, may receive the help I have planned for him. Please hand to him the accompanying £100 in notes, with my good wishes for his prosperity. Forgive this brief note, and accept my thanks for your help. Yours truly, James Browning.' "

At the mention of the name there was a buzz of whispers. " One word more," interrupted the Vicar. " You will be pleased to know that Mr. Browning has left his cottage and his last few pounds to Widow Marshall."

At this point there were murmurs of hearty approval, and soon afterwards the people dispersed.

But this wasn't the end. The mysterious deeds of kindness went on, and many were the sad hearts that were cheered. Again speculation was rife, and again was the secret closely kept. But could you have looked over the shoulder of the angel who writes in a book of gold you would have seen the name of old Jack Sampson.

(Concluded.)

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—Rev. J. Shaw Brown has accepted appointment to our Coseley Church; Rev. B. C. Constable has accepted charge of the Gateshead Unitarian Church for three months; Rev. C. Roper, B.A., has resigned at Gateacre, Liverpool; Mrs. Martin, widow of Rev. Edgar W. Martin, has accepted ministerial charge at Bury St. Edmunds; Rev. Henry Hall has been welcomed to his ministry at Ringwood; Mr. J. K. Nettlefold, B.A., has been publicly welcomed as minister at the Stockport Unitarian Church, September 27th; Rev. Arthur Arundel, B.A., has been appointed minister of our chapel at Boston, Lincs.; Rev. E. Rosalind Lee, B.A., was publicly welcomed at Narborough Road Church, Leicester, October 3rd; Rev. E. E. Wrigley received public welcome at Stalybridge, October 6th.

The autumnal meetings of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, and of the Sunday School Association, at Sheffield, October 20—22, included a Saturday evening meeting, Sunday services, Monday conference, Council meeting, women's meeting, public meeting, Sunday school conference on Saturday and young people's services on Sunday afternoon.

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